

We Claim:

1. A spark plug comprising:

an insulator;

a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator;

5 and

a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer,

wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less of a Pb component in terms of PbO, and the tint of the marking layer seen through the glaze layer is 3 or less in the brightness specified by JIS: Z8721 as well as 3 or less in the chroma specified by JIS: Z8721, or 4 or less in the brightness specified by JIS: Z8721 as well as 2 or less in the chroma specified by JIS: Z8721.

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2. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein the glaze layer further comprises a Zn component.

3. The spark plug as set forth in claim 2, wherein the glaze layer comprises 1 to 25 mol% of the Zn component in terms of ZnO.

4. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein the marking layer further comprises at least one of Cu, Cr, Fe and Mn as metal component(s).

5. The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises at least one of Fe and Mn, and at least one of Cr and Co as metal components.

5 6. The spark plug as set forth in claim 5, wherein the marking layer comprises Fe and Cr as metal components.

7. The spark plug as set forth in claim 6, wherein the marking layer comprises 30 to 60 mass% of the Fe component in terms of Fe_2O_3 , and 10 to 40 mass% of the
10 Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3 .

8. The spark plug as set forth in claim 7, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 25 mass% of the Cr
15 component in terms of Cr_2O_3 .

9. The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 40 mass% of a Co component in terms of CoO .

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10. The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% of a Ni component in terms of NiO .

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11. The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% of a Cu component in terms of CuO .

the marking layer comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% in total of at least one of an Al component and a Ba component, the Al component being in terms of Al_2O_3 and the Ba component being in terms of BaO.

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12. A spark plug having:

an insulator;

a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator;

and

10 a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer, wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less of a Pb component in terms of PbO and 1 to 25 mol% of a Zn component in terms of ZnO , and the marking layer
15 comprises 30 to 60 mass% of an Fe component in terms of Fe_2O_3 , and 10 to 40 mass% of a Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3 .

13. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein
20 the marking layer comprises 10 to 25 mass% of the Cr component in terms of Cr_2O_3 .

14. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein
the marking layer comprises 10 to 25 mass% of the Fe component
25 in terms of Fe_2O_3 .

15. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% of a Ni component in terms of Ni_2O_3 .

5 16. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% in total of at least one of an Al component and a Ba component, the Al component being in terms of Al_2O_3 and the Ba component being in terms of BaO .

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